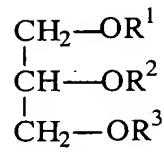


## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

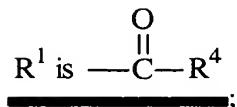
1. A water-containing liquid detergent composition comprising:
  - a) a fabric substantive agent having limited solubility in said liquid detergent composition;
  - b) a crystalline, hydroxyl-containing stabilizer; and optionally,
  - c) a nonsurfactant adjunct suitable for laundry or dishwashing detergents wherein said adjunct is soluble in said liquid detergent composition.
2. The composition according to Claim 1 wherein said composition comprises an effective amount of said crystalline, hydroxyl-containing stabilizer to suspend said fabric substantive agent within said composition.
3. The composition according to Claim 1 wherein said fabric substantive agent comprises a silicon-containing moiety.
4. The composition according to Claim 3 wherein said fabric substantive agent comprises a cationic charged moiety.
5. The composition according to Claim 3 wherein said fabric substantive agent comprises a nitrogen-containing moiety.
6. The composition according to Claim 3 wherein said fabric substantive agent comprises a polyethylene glycol moiety.
7. The composition according to Claim 1 wherein said crystalline, hydroxyl-containing stabilizer comprises a fatty ester or fatty soap moiety.
8. The composition according to Claim 1 wherein said crystalline, hydroxyl-containing stabilizer is derived from castor oil.

9. The composition according to Claim 1 wherein said crystalline, hydroxyl-containing stabilizer has a formula selected from the group consisting of:

i)



wherein:

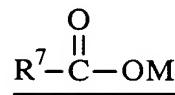


$\text{R}^2$  is  $\text{R}^1$  or H;

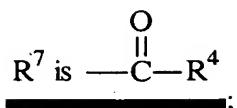
$\text{R}^3$  is  $\text{R}^1$  or H;

$\text{R}^4$  is independently  $\text{C}_{10}-\text{C}_{22}$  alkyl or alkenyl comprising at least one hydroxyl group;

ii)



wherein:

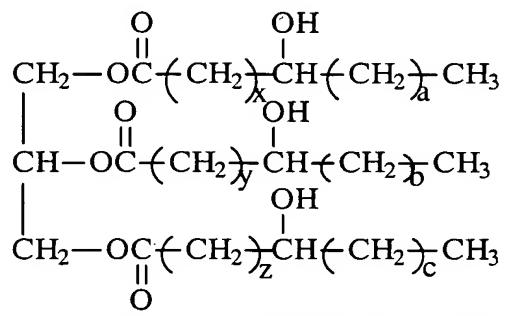


$\text{R}^4$  is as defined above in i);

M is  $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ ,  $\text{Mg}^{++}$  or  $\text{Al}^{3+}$ , or H; and

iii) mixtures thereof.

10. The composition according to Claim 1 wherein said crystalline, hydroxyl-containing stabilizer has the formula:



wherein:

(x + a) is from between 11 and 17; (y + b) is from between 11 and 17; and  
 (z + c) is from between 11 and 17.

11. The composition according to Claim 10 wherein x = y = z = 10.

12. The composition according to Claim 10 wherein a = b = c = 5.

13. The composition according to Claim 1 further comprising an alkali, said composition having a pH at 1% in water of at least about 7.2.

14. The composition according to Claim 13 wherein the composition is a heavy-duty liquid laundry detergent comprising 5% by weight or greater of water.

15. The composition according to Claim 1 wherein said fabric substantive agent is selected from the group consisting of: silicon-moiety containing agents (preferably aminofunctional silicones or quaternary-nitrogen-containing silicones), anti-abrasion polymers, dye fixative agents, optical brighteners, fabric substantive perfumes, soil release polymers, photobleaches, bleaches, bleach precursors, and mixtures thereof.

16. The composition according to Claim 1 wherein said liquid composition further comprises a surfactant, preferably selected from:

- (i) anionic surfactants, preferably selected from alkylbenzenesulfonate surfactants, alkyl alkoxylate sulfate surfactants, alkyl sulfate surfactants and mixtures thereof;
- (ii) nonionic surfactants, preferably alkyl alkoxylate surfactants, alkylphenyl alkoxylate surfactants alkylpolyglycosides, and mixtures thereof, and
- (iii) mixtures thereof.

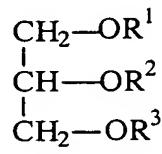
17. A method for treating a surface, preferably a fabric, in need of treatment comprising contacting said surface with a liquid composition according to Claim 1.

18. An aqueous laundry and/or dishwashing liquid composition comprising a thread-like structuring system and a benefit-providing material wherein the thread-like structuring system stabilizes the benefit-providing material such that the benefit-providing material provides its benefit upon use.

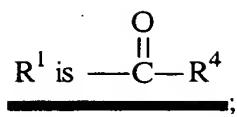
19. The aqueous liquid composition according to Claim 18 wherein said thread-like structuring system comprises a crystalline, hydroxyl-containing stabilizing agent.

20. The aqueous liquid composition according to Claim 19 wherein said crystalline, hydroxyl-containing stabilizing agent has a formula selected from the group consisting of:

i)



wherein:

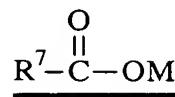


$R^2$  is  $R^1$  or H;

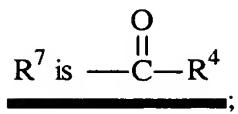
$R^3$  is  $R^1$  or H;

$R^4$  is independently  $C_{10}$ - $C_{22}$  alkyl or alkenyl comprising at least one hydroxyl group;

ii)



wherein:

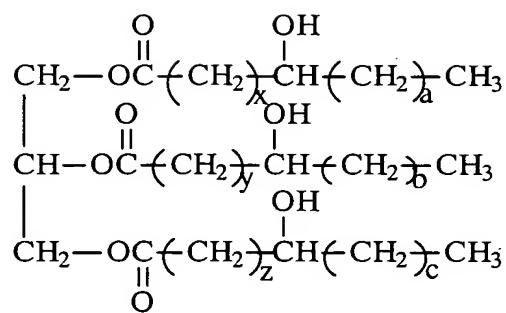


$R^4$  is as defined above in i);

$M$  is  $Na^+$ ,  $K^+$ ,  $Mg^{++}$  or  $Al^{3+}$ , or H; and

iii) mixtures thereof.

21. The aqueous liquid composition according to Claim 20 wherein said crystalline, hydroxyl-containing stabilizer has the formula:



wherein:

(x + a) is from between 11 and 17; (y + b) is from between 11 and 17; and  
 (z + c) is from between 11 and 17.

22. The aqueous liquid composition according to Claim 21 wherein x = y = z = 10.

23. The aqueous liquid composition according to Claim 21 wherein a = b = c = 5.

24. The aqueous liquid composition according to Claim 18 further comprising a salt.

25. The aqueous liquid composition according to Claim 18 further comprising a surfactant.

26. The aqueous liquid composition according to Claim 18 further comprising 5% by weight or greater of water.

27. The aqueous liquid composition according to Claim 18 wherein said material is selected from the group consisting of: fabric substantive agents, defoaming agents (preferably silicone / silica combinations), aesthetic agents and mixtures thereof.

28. A method for providing a benefit to a system comprising contacting said system with a composition according to Claim 18.

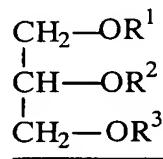
29. A stabilized water-containing liquid laundry detergent composition comprising a thread-like structuring system having an average aspect ratio of from about 1.5:1, preferably from at least 10:1, to about 200:1.

30. A stabilizing system wherein an aqueous laundry and/or dishwashing liquid composition is stabilized by an effective amount of a thread-like structuring system.

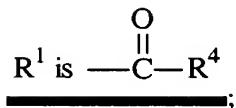
31. The stabilizing system according to Claim 30 wherein said thread-like structuring system comprises a crystalline, hydroxyl-containing stabilizing agent.

32. The stabilizing system according to Claim 31 wherein said crystalline, hydroxyl-containing stabilizing agent has a formula selected from the group consisting of:

i)



wherein:

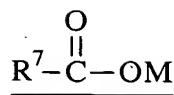


$\text{R}^2$  is  $\text{R}^1$  or H;

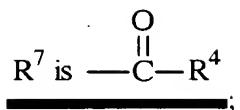
$\text{R}^3$  is  $\text{R}^1$  or H;

$\text{R}^4$  is independently  $\text{C}_{10}-\text{C}_{22}$  alkyl or alkenyl comprising at least one hydroxyl group;

ii)



wherein:

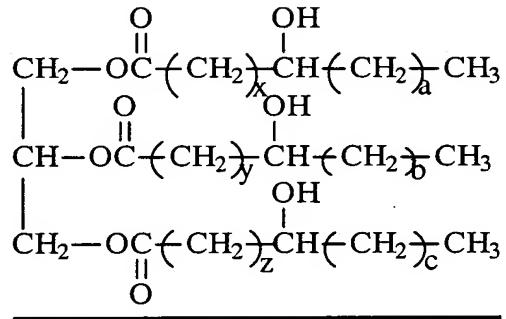


$\text{R}^4$  is as defined above in i);

$\text{M}$  is  $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ ,  $\text{Mg}^{++}$  or  $\text{Al}^{3+}$ , or  $\text{H}$ ; and

iii) mixtures thereof.

33. The stabilizing system according to Claim 32 wherein said crystalline, hydroxyl-containing stabilizer has the formula:



wherein:

$(x + a)$  is from between 11 and 17;  $(y + b)$  is from between 11 and 17; and  
 $(z + c)$  is from between 11 and 17.

34. The stabilizing system according to Claim 33 wherein  $x = y = z = 10$ .

35. The stabilizing system according to Claim 33 wherein  $a = b = c = 5$ .

36. The stabilizing system according to Claim 30 further comprising a salt.

37. The stabilizing system according to Claim 30 further comprising a surfactant.

38. The stabilizing system according to Claim 30 further comprising 5% by weight or greater of water.

39. The stabilizing system according to Claim 30 wherein said material is selected from the group consisting of: fabric substantive agents, defoaming agents, aesthetic agents and mixtures thereof.

40. A water-containing liquid detergent composition comprising:

- a defoaming and/or aesthetic agent having limited solubility in said liquid detergent composition;
- a crystalline, hydroxyl-containing stabilizer; and optionally,
- a nonsurfactant adjunct suitable for laundry or dishwashing detergents wherein said adjunct is soluble in said liquid detergent composition.

41. The liquid composition according to Claim 40 wherein said aesthetic agent is selected from the group consisting of: colored particles, pearlescent agents, dyes and mixtures thereof.

42. The liquid composition according to Claim 40 wherein said defoaming agent comprises a polydimethylsiloxane compounded with silica.

43. An aqueous, heavy-duty laundry detergent comprising:

- at least 5% water, preferably at least 20% water;
- 5% to 40% of a surfactant system comprising anionic, nonionic or mixed anionic / nonionic surfactants, optionally including amine oxides;
- from 0.1% to 5% of a crystalline, hydroxyl-containing stabilizer;
- from at least about 0.01% to about 5% of deteritive enzymes;

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- from 0.1% to 10% of a fabric-substantive agent selected from silicones having all of a cationically charged moiety, a silicon-containing moiety and a polyoxyalkylene moiety; said composition having a pH at 1% in water of at least 7.5.

44. A stabilizing system wherein an aqueous laundry and/or dishwashing liquid composition is stabilized by an effective amount of a structuring system comprising a thread-like structuring system and a non-thread-like structuring system.

45. A method for increasing the viscosity of an aqueous laundry and/or dishwashing liquid composition comprising the step of adding an effective amount of a thread-like structuring system to the liquid composition such that the viscosity of the liquid composition is increased compared to the viscosity of the liquid composition without such as structuring system.

46. A method for increasing the viscosity of an aqueous laundry and/or dishwashing liquid composition comprising the step of adding an effective amount of a structuring system comprising a thread-like structuring system and a non-thread-like structuring system to the liquid composition such that the viscosity of the liquid composition is increased compared to the viscosity of the liquid composition without such as structuring system.

47. A water-containing liquid detergent composition comprising:

- a) a fabric substantive agent having limited solubility in said liquid detergent composition;
- b) a material of the formula:



where a is from 2 to 4; and Z and Z' are hydrophobic groups; and optionally,

- c) a nonsurfactant adjunct suitable for laundry or dishwashing detergents wherein said adjunct is soluble in said liquid detergent composition.